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181 Their proverb "First the work, then the pleasure" characterizes the serious attitude of the Estonians toward work. They are eager to succeed economically, and they are always willing to accept any changes which they think will help them in their work.

181 Authority is recognized and accepted by the Estonians when it seems wise and sensible, but they do not readily submit to mere power-authority. For this reason the majority of Estonians do not favor dictatorship. They disliked Nazi totalitarianism but tolerated it because they hoped it would be the way to achieve in the long run peace and freedom. Communist dictatorship is more difficult for them because the Estonians naturally detest any kind of leveling (Gleichschaltung) process.

000 In Estonia, as in almost every modern

665 last years of independence, through the Chamber of Workers.

- 461 In Soviet-occupied Estonia, as in the entire
466 Soviet Union, the employer is the State. It is a severe employer who does not permit any strikes. According to many sources, absenteeism and tardiness are very severely punished. If the worker or other employee is absent for the first time or is late for more than twenty minutes without valid reason, he may be sentenced to several months of correctional labor, which means harder work and a 25 per cent reduction in wages. If a worker is repeatedly absent, he is sentenced to jail or deported to a concentration camp. Workers are responsible for the tools with which they work, and must pay a penalty five times the value of the tool if it is destroyed. No one can leave his working place and

- 461 seek employment elsewhere without permission
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of the director of the factory, and if he tries,

[462] the worker may be imprisoned. Women and young people are not safeguarded by law from heavy work. Women work in oil-shale mines and other heavy industries on both day and night shifts.

467 There are trade unions in Soviet Estonia and each worker must contribute one per cent of his wages to his union. But union duties are reversed as compared to the trade unions of the Western world; they protect the interests of the government, organize Socialist competitions in raising the productivity of labor, try to reduce costs of production, exercise economy of raw materials, and so on. Communist ideology explains that in a Socialist society exploitation no longer exists; therefore there is no need

[Estonian constitution as of November, 1947]

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472 Art. 8. Alongside the socialist system of economy in the Estonian SSR the law permits the small private economy of individual peasants, artisans and handicraftsmen and small private industrial and trading enterprises.

423 Art. 9. The land occupied by peasant holdings as provided by law is secured for their use free of charge and for an unlimited time.

421 Art. 10. The personal property right of citizens in their incomes and savings from work, in their dwelling houses and subsidiary home enterprises, in articles of domestic economy and use and articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right of citizens to inherit personal property, is protected by law.

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185 Art. 11. The economic life of the Estonian SSR is determined and directed by the state national-economic plan, with the aim of increasing the public wealth, of steadily raising the material and cultural standards of the working people, of consolidating the independence of the USSR and strengthening its defensive capacity.

461 Art. 12. Work in the Estonian SSR is a duty and a matter of honour for every able-bodied citizen, in accordance with the principle: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat."

The principle applied in the Estonian SSR is that of socialism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work."

Chapter II. The State Structure

642 Art. 13. For the purpose of mutual assistance among the Union Republics along economic and political lines, as well as along the line of defence, the Estonian SSR voluntarily united with the other equal Soviet Socialist Republics, namely:

The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic,
The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Kirghis Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic and
The Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic

in a federal state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Proceeding from the aforesaid, the Estonian SSR ensures to the USSR, as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, the rights defined in Art. 14 of the Constitution of the USSR.

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693 Art. 78. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

692 Art. 79. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Estonian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Estonian SSR.

646 Art. 80. The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 81. District Courts are elected by the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies for a term of five years.

Art. 82. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the cities and villages on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

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[523] Art. 83. Judicial proceedings in the Estonian SSR are conducted in the Estonian and Russian languages, persons not knowing these languages being guaranteed the opportunity of fully acquainting themselves with the material of the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 84. In all Courts of the Estonian SSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to defense.

693 Art. 85. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 86. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Estonian SSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 87. The Procurator of the Estonian SSR is appointed by the Supreme Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 88. District and city procurators are appointed by the Procurator of the Estonian SSR subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 89. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Chapter VIII. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

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461 Art. 90. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to work, that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

[*Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947*]

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461 The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

Art. 91. The citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to rest and leisure.

[1466] The right to rest and leisure is secured by the establishment of an eight-hour day for the overwhelming majority of workers, by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers, and by the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest homes and clubs for the accommodation of working people.

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657 Art. 92. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense, free medical service for working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

871 Art. 93. Citizens of the Estonian SSR have the right to education. This right is ensured by universal and compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including higher education; by a system of state stipends for the overwhelming majority of students of higher educational institutions; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language, and by the organization in the factories, state farms, and machine and tractor stations of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

[522] Art. 94. Women in the Estonian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, by state protection of the interests of mother and child, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

[523] Art. 95. Equality of rights of citizens of the Estonian SSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity, is an inalienable law.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law.

[659] Art. 96. In order to ensure the citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the Estonian SSR is separated from the state, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.

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ESTONIANS RG4 ●

The History of Livonia.

Livonia, retaining much of the Barbarity as well as Superstitions of their Pagan Ancestors: They have nothing of their own, but are meer Slaves to the Nobility, who give them certain Allotments of Lands to Cultivate, for the bare subsistence of their Families, the overplus being reserved for their Lords, unto whom they are obliged to do certain Services at their Country Seats, in proportion of their Possessions they hold under them. It must be acknowledged that their Slavery is almost unsupportable; but the *Livonian* Nobility excuse this hard Usage with their Stubbornness, which is such, that unless they be oppress'd beyond all Hopes or Thoughts of relief, they would soon turn out their Masters, of which they have sometimes given sufficient Proof, when occasion has presented.

They are indeed *Lutherans* by Name, and there is scarce a Village but what has its own Church; but what with their Obstinacy and Perseverance in their Heathenish Superstitions, and what with their carelessness and little regard of a future State, they have scarce any thing that bears the resemblance of a Christian, except it be Baptism; for as to hear Sermons, and to go to Communion, they are scarce ever seen at it, except it be by Compulsion, or for some Interest relating to the conveniencies of this Life. If they are asked the Reason, they alledge, that their Slavery and Drudgery is such, that it is impossible for them to apply themselves to Devotion. And to confess the Truth, this seems to be no framed Excuse; for considering, that besides the Daily Turmoils they undergo at Home for providing for their Families, they are obliged to do Services at the Seats of their Lords, whither they repair early in the Morning every *Monday*, and return not till late on *Saturday* Night; during which time they have scarce two Hours in 24 allow'd them for Sleep (if their Lords be good Natur'd, for the rest give them scarce any intermission) during which time they undergo such incredible Fatigues and Drudgeries (both Men and Women) in cleaving of Wood, Cultivating the Ground, Threshing and Drying of Corn, that it is no Wonder, if they rather apply these few Hours on *Sundays* for Rest than in Devotion. This insupportable Slavery, their want of Rest, and the Badness of their Diet, being nothing else but Rye Bread, dry

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Wages and Hours of Labor

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TABLE 3.—Monthly Wages of Agricultural Laborers and Cost-of-Living Indexes in Estonia, 1933 to 1937

Year	Monthly wage (in krooni) of laborers on—						General cost-of-living index (1913=100)
	Yearly contract		Summer contract		Day work		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1932	14.4	10.7	19.5	14.7	29.0	22.8	88
1934	16.7	11.8	22.7	16.6	33.3	26.4	87
1935	18.7	12.1	26.2	18.4	36.4	31.2	88
1936	22.1	16.0	30.9	22.3	43.6	35.8	96
1937	27.2	19.5	38.1	27.1	55.0	43.2	104

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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

There were partial increases in wage rates in Estonia in 1937, particularly in seasonal industries, such as the building trades and others. In table 4 average hourly wages and hours of labor per day are presented, according to size of establishment and by sex, for 1936 and 1937.

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TABLE 4.—Average Hourly Wages and Average Hours Per Day of Industrial Workers in Estonia, 1936 and 1937

[Average exchange rate of Estonian senti in 1937—about 0.37 cent, U. S. currency]

Industrial enterprises employing—	Average hourly wages				Average hours of labor per day							
	1936		1937		First half of—				Second half of—			
					1936		1937		1936		1937	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
80 or more workers	37.4	24.3	40.5	25.8	8.06	7.91	8.11	7.79	8.13	7.84	8.14	7.85
20 to 40 workers	34.9	21.3	37.6	23.5	8.10	7.73	8.06	7.91	8.05	7.99	8.23	7.87
5 to 19 workers	30.9	19.5	33.0	20.8	7.91	7.78	7.91	7.85	7.96	7.79	7.95	7.79
Less than 5 workers	24.1	14.7	28.3	15.6								

Average hourly wage rates of industrial workers in Estonia are presented in table 5, for the second half of 1937, according to size of establishment and by sex and industry.